

The third call of the day was to the other main station in Dublin, Energy 103. This station must have some of the fittest DJs in the country: the studios are located in what used to be a shop with the entrance and production studio in what used to be the former shop. Upstairs is the record library and newsroom/office and the main studio is up another couple of flights on the top floor, also their newsreaders cupboard and the link tx etc. Again a very pro station, but we felt we needed a change; any more gleaming studios and super-txs and we'd die of envy!

By now it was afternoon, very hot and sunny, and we thought that two or three more stations would end our day, so after a bit of weaving round the city we headed for TTTR. Don't ask me what it stands for because I don't know. The building numbering system in the area seemed to have been designed to drive visiting Anoraks crazy; what we thought was the studio was in fact a betting shop, the station being located back around the corner. TTTR (treble TR) is one of a number of local stations specialising in country and western/irish music, quite different from your usual top-40-hows-this-for-a-radio-sound stations. We found that the farther away from the big towns, the more community based the stations were. Back to TTTR, and this is another of your 'off the shelf' stations: most of the equipment could be bought at any hifi store and the link tx was home-built. What we thought were the link aerials turned out to belong to a FMR user next door. The aerial itself was doing a good impression of a 6 element band 2 beam on the roof (which it was). This didn't seem suitable for local area FM use, and it was explained that it was necessary because of the low tx power and the need to link to their MW tx site at . . . guess where (clue:above). Considering the size of the operation they had the biggest record library that I had so far seen in a 'local' station.

Time, and this paper was running out, so we rushed over to LLCR in the Liberties area. This station is owned by Sammy Prendergast of Prendergast Aerials, who have erected just about every mast in Ireland, or so it seemed. Again the homebrew studio and tx, and free coffee! Photos of these stations will appear in future issues of Wavelength.

The final call of the day was to Radio Dublin, located in one of the less salubrious parts of the city (big words here). A very nice lattice mast rising from behind a redbrick bungalow in the last stages of dilapidation and supporting the MW, FM and SW aerials. Inside you could see traces of the station's former glory: to the right of the hallway was studio 2, now locked up, formerly used when the station ran a second service. The main (and only) studio was in a partitioned-off part of the room on the left side. Again, this was a typical off-the-shelf station. The main difference was in the tx room: within the blackness (no lights) could just be seen a large grey steel cabinet. This was the 5kW MW tx, normally run at 1kW but turned up to 5 at night, and beside it was the FM tx about 1kW. Throughout the room ran aerial, HT and other wires, and you could feel the RF in the air. We were that at the time of the raids on Dublin stations the txs had been filled with a couple of tons of concrete to prevent the authorities from taking them, and that any attempt to do so would have caused a riot in the district. Looking at the tx room my guess is that they hadn't wanted to risk it.

This visit ended our first full day in Dublin and we headed back to our B&B (last night's stop was fully booked!?! so we had to find another) Unfortunately John Dean received a call from home, with the result that he had to get back to the UK as soon as possible. This looked like the end of our tour because Luis Nieto, who had travelled down originally with JD would also have to return with him, a problem further worsened because we were travelling in the one car and there seemed to be no easy way for John to get back to his car in the UK without our returning.

In Wavelength 16: The solution. What were we doing around Dublin at 7am? What Now? And where does the LOW CLOUD fit in?

Many thanks to all our contributors for this number. That all important Copydate for Wavelength 16 is May 28th, lets hope that we can keep it ourselves for once!

Wavelength

APRIL 1987

No.15

Changing the Dial
The Green Paper, page 12



Radio: Choices and Opportunities

A CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT

Presented to Parliament by Command of Her Majesty
February 1987

Po Box 5, Hunstanton, Norfolk, PE36 5AU.

Welcome

Many thanks to all of you who troubled to write on our new look. We're glad that you approve. Of note this issue we welcome respected Short Wave Dx'er Rodney R. Sixe to our team, he takes over the Short Wave section of On The Bands. Elsewhere Neil Frazer considers the problem of non co-operation amongst the Merseyside stations and we give an insight into the long awaited Green Paper on the future of broadcasting.

In addition I draw your attention to our new service 'Wavelength Productions' which will be able to provide you with a selection of jingles and Voice Overs

Adrian Cocke, Editor.

M.V. COMMUNICATOR

Once again problems primarily with the aerial system have kept Laser Hot Hits off the air. St. Valentine's Day, February 14th brought a late start to programming with Brandy Lee commencing a string of Love songs at 0800. This however was short lived as the transmitter cut out after only two records. A return was made at 0820, but the station was off air again for a short period during the afternoon, on their return the signal was slightly improved. Over the next few days more breaks were noted. On February 20th the station left the air at 1655 and no further transmissions were heard until the morning of the 22nd.

February 23rd brought some changes in the on air team with Brandy Lee commenting that for every person who leaves the ship, two more come on board. In this instant it was newsreader Andrew Turner who had headed for dry land. His replacement was American John Allen, although he was not heard until mid morning after adjusting to the sea. Also on board was a new DJ Paul Jackson, who made his first appearance the following morning on the Breakfast Show, his presentation was more laid back than his colleagues, which brought a further dimension to the station. Brandy Lee moved to the afternoon with the full schedule reading;

0600 Paul Jackson	Newsreader;
1000 D.L. Bogart	John Allen.
1400 Brandy Lee	
1800 John Anthony.	

In addition to the above the voice of John Lewis was often heard hosting programmes between 0500 and 0600, prior to the station's official sign on time, and late in the evening, following John Anthony. Previously John Lewis had not announced any on air name, but later adopted 'Stephen Bishop' a name he had used during his time on the Mi Amigo in the late seventies. On February 24th he was noted with a 'Hello' to Ross Revenge Ship's dog Raffles, who he could apparently hear barking at night!

A new advertisement was noted February 26th for a service providing cheap Hotel accommodation around London. Only a telephone number was announced. Closedown was made at 1800 with Brandy and John hosting duel shows. February 28th brought a further new advertiser - Softspots Computers offering Computer Software from their shop in Clacton on Sea.

Jim Ferry joined the station on March 8th enabling D.L. Bogart to take some shoreleave, his first programme commenced at 1200; the result of yet another late start. Bill Reid made his first appearance on March 16th, taking the breakfast show from Paul Jackson who moved to the Morning show. Bill's appearance however was curtailed at 0715 returning later in the morning. On Tuesday the station was not noted at Breakfast, and on Wednesday Bill signed off at 0817, so it was not until Thursday that Bill was able to complete his first full programme. The rearranged schedule read;

0600 Bill Reid
1000 Paul Jackson
1400 Brandy Lee
1800 John Anthony
2200 Jim Ferry

Newsreader:
John Allen.

In addition John Anthony regularly joined Brandy for the final hour of her programme, and Jim Ferry has guested with John.

On March 21st John Anthony and Jim Ferry hosted a joint programme from 1700 up to 2000 when the station closed, this was repeated on consecutive evenings. D.L. Bogart returned on March 22nd, replacing Brandy Lee in the afternoons. On March 24th the schedules were brought forward until closedown at 1800, likewise closedown was also made at 1800 on March 25th. This was to be the last transmission from the Communicator for 10 days, a period of strong winds across the United Kingdom and the Southern North Sea.

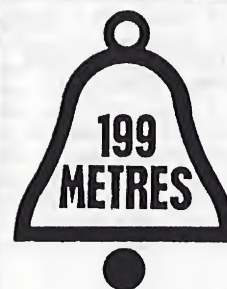
After some adjustment to the aerial system, and the delivery of further fuel supplies Laser Hot Hits returned to the air on Sunday April 5th. We first noted broadcasts at 1245 with continuous music until 1400 when Paul Jackson hosted on a 'Commercial Free' afternoon, D.L. Bogart programmed from 1700 to closedown at 2000 with the new shorter version of Abba's 'Thankyou for the Music', now with added seagulls and Laser blasts, and ending with a reminder to turn off our radios. The signal was weaker than that of Caroline on 558. Brandy Lee was back for breakfast at 0600 the next morning. It has been decided by the Laser management to continue with the mid evening closedowns for the present time, due to the poor signal which the station puts in after dark in all but the coastal districts near to the anchorage. The schedule

0600 Brandy Lee	Newsreader;
1000 Paul Jackson	Andrew Turner.
1500 D.L. Bogart	
2000 Closedown.	

On his return to Newsreading Andrew Turner's news jingle was soon revoiced by Paul Jackson. Andrew's voice can also be heard on new 'Public Service Announcements' for public awareness of the risks of AIDS, these are sponsored by Lamberts, manufacturers and suppliers of Condoms.

On April 8th a sudden cut out of the transmitter occurred at 1657, Laser returned moments later, but with much reduced audio, a further break followed before the closedown. Audio quality was restored at the weekend. The station also spent part of Sunday afternoon April 12th off the air.

Laser was noted off the air once more on April 16th, and 17th returning on Saturday 18th. We noted D.L. Bogart at 9.45 followed by Paul Jackson at 1100 and D.L. again from 1500 through until closedown at 2000. A commercial Free Weekend was announced and this ran through until Monday evening. Also missing was the News bulletins. On Tuesday 23rd 576 was again silent, and remains quiet as we go to print.



**I LOVE CAROLINE
ON ONE-NINE-NINE**

**CAROLINE CLUB
RADIO CAROLINE
LONDON, W.1**

M.V. ROSS REVENGE

987

DIARY

DIARY

Despite the strong winds sweeping across the United Kingdom the Ross Revenge has 'weathered the storm' with few breaks on either the 90s or 558 services.

Some breaks were made in Mid February. On February 19th Jamie King was noted reappearing at 1700, and on February 23rd Richard Staines was interrupted from an afternoon slumber to reopen the station at 1015.

In the week between February 24th and March 1st the entire 558 line up changed, first on February 24th Rob Charles, Richard Staines and Lave Ellis left to be replaced by Richard Jackson, Tim Shepherd and Steve Conway. Further changes to the line up occurred on March 1st with Kevin Turner and Jamie King heading for land leaving Mark Matthews and Mark Warner on board the Ross Revenge. Steve Conway took up the position of full time newsreader, so the presentation staff were one short. The schedule.

0500 Mark Matthews
1100 Richard Jackson
1300 Mark Warner
1700 Richard Jackson
2100 Tim Shepherd.

Over the weekend of March 14th Caroline 558 was able to return to a 24 hour operation with Steve Conway presenting between 0100 and 0500. Mark Matthews read the 1300 News to enable Steve to get some well earned sleep.

Lave James returned to the station at 0900 on March 15th taking the place of Richard Jackson. With a current shortage of Commercials only regular advertisers Lotto 649, Newsweek and Brighton Record fairs remain so Mark Matthews has been filling the time with some station promotions featuring the current tracks being played on air.

March 28th was Radio Caroline's official birthday and Mark Matthews hosted a special programme from 2100 to 0500 the following morning. To allow for this Tim Shepherd made his first daytime appearance at 1300 on the Saturday afternoon. The Birthday programming took the form of a musical review of the past 23 years with a reflection of the music which the station was, or would have been playing at the time. Two or three tracks were played for each year. In addition more outtakes from station commercials and promotions were aired. With the clocks being moved forward into Summer Time Mark finished the rundown at 0230 BST, but continued programming to 0500 with more classic tracks though with less chat. Over on 963 a new announcement recorded by Tim Shepherd now closes the service after the end of viewpoint at 2130. A blank carrier remains on the channel most evenings.

Peter Phillips returned to the microphone on March 31st which brought the on air team up to full strength. The Voice of Tom Anderson was heard on the Lotto promotions from April 4th, but it wasn't until April 7th that we found him to be on air, when Tim Shepherd announced 'Mr 558-Tom Anderson' would follow him from 0100 to 0200. Tom was responsible for a spoof set of Lotto prize results which caught Peter Phillips out on April 11th.

Mark Matthews started a week of advanced Dutch lessons on April 6th, Day One 'One of the sails has fallen off my windmill'.

Mark Matthews presented an additional show on April 12th at 2100, this set the scene for some changes in the line up, which from Monday April 13th read,

0500 Kevin Turner	News Early: Mark Matthews
0900 Peter Phillips	News Late: Kevin Turner
1300 Mick Williams	
1700 Mark Matthews	
2100 Dave James	
0100 David Foster	

Returning was Kevin Turner with new names Mick Williams and David Foster. Steve Conway and Tom Anderson both left the ship at this time.

Caroline 558 was noted off the air on April 22nd, during the afternoon, however on tuning over to 963kHz we found Radio Monique still on air, indicating a possible transmitter fault. On Monique Jan Veldkamp asked Mark Matthews if he was enjoying his day off. Apparently not. The following morning with Caroline off the air still we spent breakfast with Monique and Dick the Trousers (Verheul) Caroline 558 returned later in the afternoon with Mick Williams, followed at 0500 by Peter Phillips 'Have we got a programme for you this evening, Yes we have and that in itself is progress' Here we end our diary of events.

PEOPLE

On Laser we briefly welcomed Bill Reid, who due to the station being off air only managed 7 complete programmes. Bill has left the station along with 'Jungle' Jim Perry, who at 19 is we believe the youngest person to be heard on air at Laser. Brandy Lee is also reported to be considering her position.

Caroline's Tim Shepherd was another recruit from the Voice of Peace, whilst Newsreader Steve Conway although brought up in Ireland has spent the past few years living in Southern England where he worked on South East Sounds. Whilst welcoming Mick Williams and David Foster to the North Sea we know very little about them, Ideas on Past History anyone?

Tom Anderson recently made a return visit to the Ross Revenge with the intention of completing some Engineering work, and removing the Overdrive equipment from the ship. The alternative music programmes are set to return although in the future they will be prerecorded.

The Ipswich paper 'East Anglian Daily Times' Reported on April 3th that nine people, All English had been summonsed to face charges under the Marine Broadcast Offences Act, The hearing will take place at Sittingbourne Magistrate's Court on May 15th

TECHNICAL POINTS

Plans are also afoot for a FM service for Caroline, although it is still very much at the planning stage with decisions to be made on whether it should relay existing programmes or move towards an ACR format.

The completion of the aerial system on board the communicator is likely to mean that the station will be off the air for a period of around 2 weeks. It is not known if the current absence from the air has anything to do with this.

LATEST - Financial Troubles for Laser.

Reports received indicate that Laser Hot Hits is in financial trouble, apparently due to the lack of advertising of the station. New backers have been found and they have advised that the station should remain off the air until such a time as full power has been restored. A lead article in the East Anglian Daily Times on April 27th suggests a mutiny amongst the DJs, these reports however have been denied by a Laser Spokesman. Due to the 'Cash Flow crisis' staff have not been paid for last month and the ship is low on fuel. Before the last closedown comments regarding the situation were heard from Paul Jackson and D.L. Bogart. (27/4/87)

FM	88	92	96	100	104	108	MHz		
SW	60	65	80	100	130	180	MHz		
MW	54	60	70	80	100	120	140	160	kHz
LW	150	170	190	220	250	270	285	kHz	

Podney R. Sixe

GREAT BRITAIN

FMTR - FREE MIDWAY TOWN RADIO (1) became the first victim of the Short Wave purge being conducted by the Department of Trade and Industry when they were raided on February 22nd, just 20 minutes into their broadcast. The station was transmitting live from a house, and consequently lost 3 transmitters, 2 mixers, 2 jingle machines and some letters from foreign listeners. The total value of the equipment confiscated was £600, although operator Steve Harper told WAVELENGTH that he expected to get all but the transmitters returned to him. Mr. Harper has been charged for three offences under the 1949 Wireless Telegraphy Act for transmitting on October 15th and 22nd, together with a further unspecified date in October. However the solicitor for Mr. Harper thinks it is unlikely that the DTI will be able to make more than one charge hold in court. The actual case will be heard at Sheerness Magistrates Court on May 1st.

Steve Harper was also heard during a broadcast from Radio Europa on 6329 on March 1st. FMTR will be back on the air as soon as possible. They are currently having generator difficulties. (Adrian Cooke.)

RADIO ORION (2) were raided on one of their Weekday broadcasts on Tuesday February 24th. Taken were Transmitters, Audio equipment, Photographs of the transmitters, and even a Car Radio which was not connected to anything was removed. Orion were back on the air March 1st, and have subsequently been heard each Sunday on 6266/7, on Easter Monday an additional broadcast was made on 6290 (Steve Most.)

BRITISH MUSIC INTERNATIONAL (3) is a new station whose philosophy is to play music from British bands. They were noted on February 22nd on 6290.

RADIO JECFARDY are a new British station operated by Gary Stephens, formerly of BEMS. First transmissions are expected shortly on either 6240 or 6270kHz from 1130-1330 UTC. The programmes will be more orientated around the spoken word than BEMS was. Once established the station plans to move down to 5910 to try one Sunday or possibly Saturday. No address to hand.

Falcon Radio operator Peter Moss is setting up a new station under the name of RADIO UNICORN (3). The station will transmit every third Sunday via the transmitters of Radio Pamela. A Verification letter has been prepared for those who write into the station.

WFRL - WONDERFUL FREE RADIO LONDON made a return to the air on April 12th after a short absence due to technical problems. The aerial has now been revamped and a new 807 installed in the transmitter. In addition a special Easter Broadcast was made April 19th. The station will celebrate one year on the air in May, and a new information sheet has been prepared. (4) (Adrian Cooke.)

STARBOARD SOUND was on the air Easter Monday, April 20th on 6300 with a two hour transmission from 1000 with Andy Walker and Adrian Cooke, a further transmission will be made later in the spring. (5)

BRITAIN RADIO INTERNATIONAL have recently made a number of Test Transmissions. Notably on March 1st on 6218 and on April 12th on 6232. (5&7)

RADIO PAMELA (5) continue to be noted most Sundays on 6224.

SONA SOUND(6) were heard with their last broadcast on February 15th via Radio Pamela on 6224. DJ was Pete Woods.

Well established station RADIO APOLLO (4) have made three recent broadcasts On April 5th and 19th using 6285, and on April 20th on 6312.

IRELAND

PREMIER RADIO were heard on 6218 on February 22nd announcing a new address in Dublin 22 (8).

RADIO RAINBOW(9) returned to their regular transmissions on March 15th, in addition two new channels have been added, on 97.8 FM and 1521kHz medium wave, the latter giving good reception along the West Coast of Britain. One notable change is that the Free Radio Show can now be heard at 12 Midday local time. Relays are now being planned for stations wishing to hire airtime, one such station is Radio Hexagon (10) with a programme hosted by Richard Grahame due to be transmitted shortly.



RADIO RAINBOW
INTERNATIONAL

48 m.
S.W.

FROM THE EAST COAST OF IRELAND

WESTSIDE RADIO (11) continue to transmit weekly on 6280, recent programmes have included relays of Centre Radio (96.2) on April 12th, the FRC programme is at 1200 each Sunday.

Weekly Report have recorded that RADIO IRELAND have now closed down for Personal reasons in their April 12th edition, however transmissions were heard on their 6310 frequency on April 12th, with a carrier only at 1113 and on April 19th excerpts from the 'Two Tonys' programmes were aired along with Energy 103.

EUROPE

Contrary to reports elsewhere RADIO NOVA (BELGUIM) are continuing with their broadcasts, and were indeed heard February 22nd, March 29th and April 12th on and around 6295.

RADIO NDZ (Possibly Noorderzon) were noted with a broadcast on 6285 March 29th.

RADIO GALACTICA are a new station noted first on April 19th on 6312 with a broadcast possibly made via Radio Apollo. (14).

Two possible relays via Radio Tutenchamun were made on April 5th. Firstly on 6280 Radio Joystick was heard at 0905, then on 6313 Radio Huitsilapochtli at 1033.

ADDRESS BOOK

1. Po Box 5H9, Sheerness, Kent, England. ME12 1AQ.
2. 82B Edgewood Road, Rednall, Birmingham, England. B45 89G.
3. 3 Rosewarne Cottages, Rosewarne Downs, Camborne, Cornwall, England. TR14 OBE.
4. Po Box 5, Hunstanton, Norfolk, England. PE36 5AU.
5. 32 Victoria Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 3NG.
6. 10 Bromyard Crescent, Paulsgrove, Portsmouth, England, PO6 3SP
7. Postbus 19074, 3501 LB, Utrecht, The Netherlands
8. 1 Riversdale Drive, Dublin 22, Ireland.
9. 151 Moneymore, Drogheda, County Louth, Ireland.
10. Po Box 1225, D-4354 Dateln, West Germany
11. 310 Collins Avenue West, Dublin, Ireland.
- 12.
13. Po Box 1017, 2200 BA Noordwijk, The Netherlands,
14. Po Box 60, B-2510, Molsel, Belgium.

Please send your Short Wave News to 3 Rosewarne Cottages, Rosewarne Downs, Camborne, Cornwall, TR14 OBE,

LONDON

Andy Walker

Well here we go again, pen to paper time once more, and not that much to shout about this time around. LWR, TKO and SOLAR are all still running 24 hours in between the raids, and when they are raided getting back on air within a few days. LWR have moved their studio site (Wot again!) Following a recent raid, whilst testing the equipment the DJs kept saying "Would all the LWR DJs please ring Zac to find out the address of the new studio site", What a way to run a station, and good luck to them four years on.

KISS are still going strong at weekends on 94FM, and are still the best Soul station in London. SOLAR RADIO'S return to the airwaves has been an anticlimax, sorry chaps, its not as good as the first time. Talking of TIME, The FM station broadcasting from Harlesden, North West London are still pumping out to reggae and Soul on 103.7 in Stereo, 7 days a week, without many raids.

The Big News buzzing around the Free Radio world in London is the impending return of RADIO JACKIE, The info I recieved was that they were coming back on at the end of March. They have tested the transmitter, but as yet, nothing. Come on Collis and co, get the Big J back on the airwaves, (Please).

I've just been on the phone to the operator of SLS-SOUTH LONDON SOUNDS, he tells me that SLS are closing down, Why ?, Well after 2 raids (Hi-Eric) SLS are throwing in the towel. But wait 'till you hear this! The Guy tells me that a new service will be starting up in London. The station will be called LTFM-LONDON TOWN FM, They will be on the air around 90 MHz FM, but there's more, he also tells me a Medium Wave and Short Wave service will be broadcast by the station. The MW service will be on 1125kHz/266m and

SW on 6260 with a power of 400 Watts (Eat Your heart out Rainbow) The FM rig should kick out 150 watts. ('What about the MW Power Andy?') You may well ask, but I don't know as they havn't built it yet, But I will say if this thing comes on the air, its going to be the best thing on the Free Radio Airwaves in London for years, and its not going to be a Soul stati-on, but Rock and Pop. Who's behind the station you're asking? Well that I don't know, but it seems that some of the old boys of Free Radio are in on it, Hope the pacemakers last out chaps, and Some Old Radio Jackie DJs are also involved. Hope they blow the dust off and fit new batteries in them, you know what they say about Radio Jackie DJs Don't you? You Don't? Well never mind. If it does come on don't forget you read it here first, Good luck chaps.

That's about it this time round, I'll just take 2 more pills and return to the rest home, Bye.

MERSEYSIDE

RADIO MERSEYWAVES continue to broadcast regularly, and from early February extended the Friday schedule, now operating all day. However on February 15th, along with Radio Julie the station was raided by the crack DTI team from London. All studio and transmitting equipment was lost in addition to public-ity material. Station Manager Burt Williams was at work right up to the reopening the following Friday which came at 8.00 am repiacing the station's equipment. Saturday April 4th was Grand National Day from the famous Aintree Racecourse and Merseywave's were able to make a live Outside Broadcast. Regular transmission times are Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 0800 to 0200 or 0300. 9 Meadfoot Road, Moreton, Wirrel, Merseyside, L46 7UW.

RADIO MERSEYLAND, formally known under the name Radio Caroline North oper-ate Sundays 0800-1700 on 1395kHz. The station now features a Free Radio News spot. 18 Glynne Street, Orrell, Bootle Merseyside.

LIVERPOOL PIRATE RADIO operate Saturdays and Sundays on 1404 from 1000. The broadcast on April 5th included a Guest appearance from Neil Frazer of Radio Veronica from 1100 to 1300. 30 Elkstone Road, Norris Green, Liverpool L11 2TD.

RADIO JULIE, as mentioned above were raided February 15th, however a return was made on Friday March 13th with test transmissions on 104.8. Unfortunately Slag-Off International have deliberately commenced the Jamming of Julie's transmitters, apparantly in return for an earlier incident. Worse, not only do Slag Offs transmissions affect Julie, but also Radio Veronica on 104.7 Medium Wave transmissions are also promised from Radio Julie on former Storeton frequency 1026.

RADIO VERONICA continue each Sunday although their low power currently being used prevents the signal being heard outside the station's immediate area. Veronica celebrate their 2nd birthday on the air in early May.

COUNTRYWIDE

LEEDS

MUSIC CITY RADIO are still operating each weekend on 90.3

BRADFORD

Another RADIO VERONICA, regular of late on 104.9, but have recently been raided, and at present are off the air. The address Heights Bungalow, Heights, Heckmond wike, West Yorkshire, WF16 0LE.

MIDLANDS.

PCRL are still regular on 103.5, also reported from the area are Soul City Radio on 103.5, and UK Radio on 105.2

MANCHESTER.

The annual station associated with the student's Rag Week, Radio Rag were heard again on February 22 on 102.3 They were expected to be on air for a couple of weeks as usual, but have not been heard after the given date. Regular address was announced at Po Box 88, Manchester.

with thanks to Allen Dean, Neil Frazer and Tim Jackson.

Neil Frazer

Recently arrived at the WAVELENGTH offices was a very interesting letter from Mr M. Roberts in Merseyside. The basis of this letter is that all the stations in the Merseyside area should get together over a drink and sort out their problems peaceably, instead of threatening and abusing each other over the airwaves.

To understand the current problem you have to go back several years, to the early 80s in fact.

Most Merseyside stations owe their start to either Rick Dane or Bert Williams, the Godfathers of Free Radio in Merseyside. Many DJs had left stations founded by these two to start stations of their own. So we had a lot of stations on Medium Wave—Elenore, Station M, and MAR being three of the top ones, Channel 5, Central and LPR were three of the smaller stations. Rivalry between these six and the other even smaller stations was intense. Each weekend one station would accuse another of pulling their aerial down, and the airwaves would be filled with threats, who needed the DTI under these circumstances?

Things got even worse one Sunday in January 1984. About one hour after I left the studio of a certain station the station owner's car was petrol bombed. That station closed down.

Moving more up to date the problem is on the FM band stations start up without thought for other stations, legal or otherwise. Drive round parts of the Wirral and you will find half a dozen stations fighting for the same frequency. The problem is made worse by the "We can get to Black-pool" attitude. When I started Veronica the chosen frequency was clear, and a 10 - 15 mile radius was easily reached. That was all we wanted. Soon another station appeared 100KHz away. This wiped out our signal only a mile from the TX site. So what do you do? We passed messages to the other station, but to no avail. So we increased our TX power.

A couple of years ago a group did get off the ground. Its aims were simple. To sort out frequencies to be used by local stations. Help stations who were bust by the DTI with loans of equipment etc, and maybe to pool resources to get a Super Station going. At the first meeting the Pub landlord would not let several station operators in as they were under age. Sadly what could have been a good thing staggered on for a few more months and folded, the airwaves in Merseyside were full of bitter words for many weeks.

Unstable transmitters, Jamming and childish behaviour will only make the Public stay with the BBC and IBA stations. They will agree with the Government and Press propaganda that there is 'Anarchy on the Airwaves'. We need to win public support and sympathy of what is now being called the 'Third Tier' of Radio Broadcasting is ever to happen.

In WAVELENGTH 16:- A Very biased view on Station Format on Merseyside.

Adrian Cooke

There is in Radio tremendous scope for a variety of differing publications. One such magazine within that scope is Media Monitor. Published weekly with the exception of Public and personal holidays Media Monitor is one of the country's least known Publications, even its editor Roger Tidy admits that the readership is 'Smaller than I would like'. The emphasis is three fold, covering London Free Radio News, Short Wave Free Radio, and Lx News from the broader spectrum. In addition to this there are short features on radio related items. Publication began in late 1984, and following a break whilst Mr. Tidy sorted out some private business resumed in 1986.

The coverage of the London area is in great detail primarily due to the fact that it is the editor's home patch. Media Monitor is able to keep readers informed due to both its regularity and its Geography. It is also clear that a great deal of time and research goes into the preparation of the publication. Our review copy (number 45) had a lead article on the London station CDR, which had broadcast a speech from an American Moslem leader banned from this country because of his alleged anti semitic and racist views. Media Monitor was able to tackle the item clearly and fairly saving its own comments until the final paragraph, and then clearly defining them, so not as to give the item an unfair slant. This is typical of Media Monitor.

A weekly listing of the London stations shows both frequency and format which adds to the news already given. There is also a shortwave loggings and news section, although the latter is sometimes not much more than, name, frequency and address. That said some of the items are as detailed as the London section.

The shortwave section is likely to appeal to both listener and DXer alike with news of events and schedule changes on which Media Monitor seems well informed.

Overall we found little to fault Media Monitor on, although as we have found with other publications in the past (including our own) the lack of staples in the centre lets the reader hope that it won't fall apart whilst it is being read. Forthcoming features include a look at the events leading up to the Marine Offences Act in 1967, and a general look at how radio then sounded. In addition to this there will be an item on Political Pirates such as Radio Wapping and Sheffield Peace Radio.

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MEDIA MONITOR,
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The long awaited Green Paper on the future of sound broadcasting in the United Kingdom was published by the Government on February 25th under the title of 'Radio: Choices and Opportunities'. The full proposals contained within the document have been widely publicised, so rather than to repeat this we shall concentrate here on those points which are of direct interest to Wavelength readers.

The paper's rather long winded introduction sets out the current state of British broadcasting, and how the system came about. Interesting statistics point to the public's use of certain bands with 69% of the audience remaining on the same band. Paragraph 1.24 illustrates this in further detail with the results of recent research;

- 49 per cent of listeners always use MF
- 20 per cent always use VHF/FM
- 16 per cent use both MF and VHF/FM
- 15 per cent don't know.

This points to a very apathetic audience who apart from one small group refuse to move bands, and although there is no research available one would assume that there is very little movement across the bands with listeners remaining loyal to the one station. Therefore if there is the proposed increase in the number of stations available will the listening public bother to search the band to add further variety to their radio diet.

Much detail is given to the simulcasting of the same programmes on both Medium Wave and VHF/FM this is taken as being misuse of frequencies, a view long held by those involved in Free Radio, and although the document is at pains to stress that decisions will be left to the BBC with regard to their choice of what to transmit on frequencies the corporation is all-ocated subtle hints are made that speech radio is better on Medium Wave and Long Wave with music Radio on VHF/FM. Therefore would Radio 3 loose its medium Wave and Radio 4 its VHF/FM outlet? The reallocation of frequencies looks ahead for the development of all kinds of radio and almost makes the 'lack of frequencies' argument, often used against 'pirate' operators look credible.

The impact of the Offshore stations of the 1960s, and later is not forgotten. Neither are the London Community stations although somewhat begrudgingly.

"The appearance of pirate stations also shows the ease with which studio and transmitting equipment can be installed at relatively low cost-though of course with disregard for the dangers of overlapping frequencies and interference".

The IBA's structure is also under question with ILR arguing for the further lifting of restrictions, to which we ask ourselves if the rules needed to be so tight in the first instance. The burden of many ILR stations and possibly any future licence broadcasters is looked at rather too optimistically with Needletime being retained but its presence encouraging the development of 'new sources of recorded music'. No actual solution is offered, although the Performing Right Tribunal now allows for fees to be questioned and there is a call for more flexibility between the PPL and Musician's Union.

Plans for Community Radio are once again brought to the fore with the possibility of

"... several hundred new stations of different sizes across the country all of course subject to their ability to pay their own way."

The new stations would be subject only to "light regulations".

- (i) to ensure that any news given in whatever form in programmes is presented with accuracy and impartiality;
- (ii) to exclude from programmes all expressions of the views and opinions of the persons providing the service on religious matters or on matters which are of political or industrial controversy or relate to current public policy;
- (iii) to avoid allowing the views and opinions of particular persons or bodies on such matters to predominate;
- (iv) to ensure that nothing is included in programmes which offends against good taste or decency or is likely to encourage or incite crime or to lead to disorder or to be offensive to public feeling; and
- (v) to deliver the kind of services which they had promised when applying to use the frequency.

Further it is suggested that the stations should be affiliated to some body to ensure that they do not stray from the given guidelines, and not unreasonably the right is given to the authorities to revoke any licence. Technical standards are not seen as a problem the paper states that any station not providing adequate technical quality would soon loose its audience. This shows that at long last radio will be left to itself in determining the services it provides, with the BBC hopefully still able to lead the world in domestic broadcasting.

In London it is hoped that there will be sufficient stations to provide a wide choice of listening, although as we have seen there is very little variety in services outside the Ethnic stations with for the most part wall to wall soul. Hopefully the 'market forces' will indeed give the public what it wants to here. It is unlikely that Solar, Horizon and company would have been able to continue without listener support. Outside of London the possibility of stations operating side by side with ILR is suggested. Under its present structure the possibility remains nothing more than an idea, but with ILR likely to have less restrictions the idea could become reality, although it could become somewhat one sided in favour of the smaller stations however different groups would no doubt be able to implement their own ideas here.

Community Radio would very much depend on frequencies, groups wanting to broadcast and interest shown by the public at large.

In conclusion the Green Paper shows great promise with the only major disappointment being the time limits in which the proposals are set to come into being. Although the proposed National Commercial Networks may open in the next two or three years 105-108 MHz will not be cleared until the mid 1990s. Once free there is the possibility of 400 stations with a radius of 5 km. We look only to the future.

Radio: Choices and Opportunities is published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office on behalf of the Home Office, Price £5.

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Adrian Cooke

Taken from the remains of the old Short Wave station Radio 49, Steve Most has in Radio Pamela built up an incredibly strong station. Finance is short and as a direct result the set up is very basic, however what is lacking here is made up by sheer enthusiasm, and this is able to show what can be done on radio is only one tries. I have corresponded with Steve for a number of years, and provided him with some taped programmes, so I was happy to take up his invitation to join him for a few days broad-casting.

The studio itself consists of a small Tandy Mixer with microphone, 2 record decks, and 2 tape recorders for the playing of jingles and commercials as well as the recording of programmes for future transmission when live broadcasts are not being made. The record collection, covers a wide spectrum of popular music from Rock classics to the latest disco releases. Giving the listening Public what they want to hear rather than what the DJs want to play is important to Steve, having built up a loyal following amongst CB enthusiasts in the Medway Towns and into Essex through late night request programmes. Here Steve found that there was a space for more Disco music on the radio. A gap which he was pleased to fill, his instructions to fellow presenters is to keep the music lively. Contact with the listener is important to any radio station licenced or unlicensed and to Pamela it is essential, whilst the CB is used during the local medium wave transmissions (one listener purchased a unit especially to take part in the programmes) letters are the short wave lifeline, the brightly coloured (SL cards are popular with the audience, and those writing in will often receive a personal reply from Steve.

Besides Steve another member of the team is Jason, who began his association with radio whilst still at school, travelling up to Essex to help Timbo with his Summer Roadshows on Essex Radio. Jason presents programmes, and regularly communicates with Steve via Short Wave radio, with his help the station is able to run a dual channel service with Steve transmitting on to the medium wave, whilst Jason relays the broadcasts off air to the potentially wider audience on Short Wave, an arrangement which works very well. Jason can also be heard under the name of Radio Mongoose. Pamela also has her own Short wave transmitter and has received reports from Devon with a SINPO of 55444, and from West Germany 33333. Richard Grahame, another ex Radio 49 member can also be heard on Pamela with regular programmes. The station started her life as a relay via Radio Delmare on 6205, where Pamela can still be occasionally heard, however Pamela has managed to turn the tables, and now relays other stations herself, being one of few radio stations who have been able to take the big leap between recording and transmitting programmes.

My Sunday at Pamela began one Autumn morning at half past eight, besides presenting a music programme I had been asked to compile a news service to be broadcast throughout the morning. This was achieved by tuning to the various radio services available in the area in order to complete the picture on what was happening around the world. Meanwhile Steve Most was busy setting up the medium wave transmitter which would be used for the local service, and checking that Jason was ready with the Short Wave link. The simplest way to monitor the output was to have a radio receiver on quietly in the background, tuned to the 6815 outlet.

With the preparations complete and both Steve and myself having selected our musical choice for the morning we were already to start at 0930. Short Wave listeners were given something extra to listen to through conversations between Jason, at the Short Wave site, and myself. Steve took to the microphone later in the morning, and after the 1200 news the next part of the broadcast took place in the form of a Phone-In. Telephone numbers can be an easy method for the DPL to track a station down, so a telephone box was selected. Far enough to be away from the Studio, but Close enough to return in the event of being needed. The number was noted, and then re-broadcast by those in the studio. The names of those who called were noted

along with their location, after the Phone In had closed the names were simply taken back to the studio, and read over the air. Some stations claim to use a radio link between the telephones and the studio. In reality this is usually nothing more than a CB. Having returned to the studio Pamela closed down at 1230. At this point Jason continued with Radio Mongoose, whilst the Pamela Medium Wave transmitter was switched off. No sooner was this done than the other Short Wave transmitter was set up by Steve. QSOing is popular amongst some Short Wave operators after they have completed their regular programmes. The conversations with each other are able to judge how well the transmissions have been received in different parts of the continent. There are however some people who disagree with the use of frequencies in this way, saying that it is a waste of a channel which could be used by another broadcast station. Radio Pamela however has sometimes spent whole afternoons in QSO with other operators. On this occasion others in the QSO 'net' were Radio Orion and from Ireland Riverside Radio. Some operators come on the air especially for the QSOs, the argument against them may well continue.

Steve West

By now, our intrepid anoraks have arrived in darkest Dublin and are preparing to assault Ireland's most mega mega-stations. Will they survive the encounters? What's the bad news from W14? Read on. . .

Monday September 29th:- Our first dull day in Dublin! Leaving the Landlady in a state of shock (you'd think they'd be used to Anorak invasions by now) we headed into town to find us a radio station. The problem was which one: from our past few days of listening around we reckoned that there were about 70 or so in the city including part-timers. In the end we decided to drive around and see what appeared, which didn't take long; almost immediately we spotted a likely set of aerials, and this, together with the frequency counter springing into life (very useful for tracking and ID-ing stations) meant that SOMETHING was about.

The something turned out to be KISS FM, located on the ground floor of a warehouse the station consisted of the one studio and an interview room behind what appeared to be an electrified armoured door. The FM and MW txs were located on the roof with the aerials. We interviewed manager Dave Baker who explained that the station had been going for about 2 years with a 'Radio 2-like' MOR format which was 'a change from the pop music that the other three main stations were putting out. He also said that the station would only close down when some sort of legal radio was set up. Unfortunately, they would close much sooner than then as we found out later in the week.

The next call was to C102, located in Dublin's 'West End'. Because he wasn't sure that we would be allowed in, Dave had phoned the station beforehand (to warn them perhaps?). Once we had finally found a parking place we were shown down to the basement where the studios were located. Now THIS was real radio. Talking to Martin Block he revealed that the studios, etc had cost about a quarter million pounds and that the station was turning over about £30,000 a week in advertising. The studios were amazing; really pro standard, they wouldn't have looked out of place in a mainline ILR station. Q was also the first station in Ireland to play CDs and had quite a collection in the studio. The only tx equipment around were the 3 900MHz links; one for each of the FM outlets each with an FM Optimod and one for the MW outlet with an AM Optimod. The link aerials were on a lattice mast on top of the building and the MW tx was located outside the city at a place called Three Rock Mountain.

As it turned out, this mountain seemed to house just about every major tx in Dublin, with RTE, pmr and most of the other stations having a mast on it. However we couldn't wait around at C because we had a schedule (joke) to keep to.